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1940

# CHOICE AND COMBINATION OF ENTERPRISES

Comparative Returns per Hour of Labor  
New York, 1931-38

Enterprise	: 1931-33	: 1934-38	::	Enterprise	: 1931-33	: 1934-38
<u>Livestock</u>			::	<u>Fruit</u>		
Dairy cows	: .01¢	: .25¢	::	Apples	: .24¢	: .45¢
Hens	: .14	: .29	::	Cherries	: .56	: .64
Raising chicks	: .48	: .33	::	Peaches	: .25	: .54
Incubation	: ---	: 1.91	::	Pears	: .16	: .36
Sheep	: -.65	: .06	::	<u>Hay</u>		
Feeder lambs	: .50	: .18	::	Alfalfa	: .00¢	: .53¢
Hogs	: -.09	: .24	::	Legume mixtures	: -.21	: .23
<u>Vegetables</u>			::	Nonlegumes	: -.24	: -.07
Beans, dry	: -.13¢	: .30¢	::	<u>Grain</u>		
Cabbage	: .29	: .48	::	Barley	: -.41¢	: .07¢
Corn, sweet	: ---	: .42	::	Corn	: .02	: .22
Peas, canning	: -.09	: .16	::	Oats	: -.31	: -.02
Potatoes	: .23	: .50	::	Mixtures	: -.39	: -.03
Tomatoes, canning	: .29	: .41	::	Wheat	: .01	: .47

Things to consider in choosing enterprises:

1. Labor distribution.
2. Use of byproducts.
3. Use of land.
4. Maintenance of soil fertility.
5. Spreading of risk.
6. Distribution of income.
7. Efficient use of buildings and machinery.
8. Profits of the farm business as a unit.



Conclusions:

1. Each farm is an individual problem.
2. A farmer should choose several of the most important crops in the region, carry an economical unit of each, and add other work to balance business.
3. The more favorable the conditions for any one enterprise, the greater the justification to specialize.
4. Before dropping any enterprise that is covering cash costs, but not non-cash costs, one should decide if anything else will pay better.
5. A well-balanced farm business pays best.

